

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 /050 W

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P 240917Z MAR 78

FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0244
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 03095

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI, AWACS
SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTERS COMMENTS ON AWACS

REF: BONN 5292 DTG 221712ZMAR78 (EXDIS)

1. IN

A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR BENNETT, GENERAL SCHMUCKLE, DEPUTY SACEUR, SAID THE US WOULD HAVE TO PRESS HARD ON THE FRG TO REACH AGREEMENT ON NATO AEW BY THE MAY DPC MINISTERIAL. OTHER INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH GERMAN MEMBERS OF THE NATO AEW PROGRAM OFFICE (NAPO) STAFF GIVE US THE IMPRESSION THAT WHILE MINISTER APEL SUPPORTS AWACS, HE HAS ASKED HIS STAFF "WHAT'S THE RUSH".

2. THUS, WE SUPPORT STRONGLY THE RECOMMENDATION OF AMBAS-
SADOR STOESEL (REFTTEL) THAT SECRETARY BROWN MAKE A PERSONAL
APPEAL TO MINISTER APEL FOR COMMITMENT BY THE GERMAN GOVERN-
MENT FOR AWACS AT THE MAY DPC MINISTERIAL. WE BELIEVE
SECRETARY BROWN'S APPEAL SHOULD BE BASED ON: THE RECOGNIZED
NEED FOR THE SYSTEM; THE DEGREE OF COMMITMENT OTHER NATO
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NATIONS HAVE MADE RECENTLY (EVEN THOUGH COMMITMENTS ARE
SMALL BY NATIONS OTHER THAN THE US AND FRG; CANADA, GREECE,
LUXEMBOURG, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, AND TURKEY
HAVE SIGNED THE SOU FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.); THE US
BELIEF THAT NATO IS READY TO MAKE A PROCUREMENT COMMITMENT;
AND THE TIME PERISHABLE NATURE OF BOTH CURRENT COST ESTI-
MATES AND NATIONS' COMMITMENTS. BENNETT

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NNN

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